

PARIS



BRIEF

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF EMBASSY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN IN FRANCE



Afghan health workers wearing protective gear speak with passengers who arrived from China during a screening process for Coronavirus, at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Feb. 3, 2020.

Credits: AFP

Covid-19 in Afghanistan

The worldwide pandemic of Covid-19 has reached Afghanistan as well, creating a new threat to the economy and livelihoods of Afghans. There have now been confirmed cases in almost all of the country's provinces and the reach of the virus has only been growing.

As of April 30th, there have been 2171 recorded cases in Afghanistan, and 64 confirmed deaths. Given the spread of the infection in Neighboring countries Iran and Pakistan and the return of Afghans from these countries, this figure could continue to grow. In a previous press conference, the Afghan Minister of Health had stated that the Covid-19 virus could infect up to 80 percent of the Afghan population, and kill more than 110 000 people, if strict measures are not undertaken.

In light of this threat, the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has acted with urgency and taken a variety of measures to tackle the adverse effects of the Coronavirus pandemic in Afghanistan. The government ordered a lockdown in various provinces, shutting down businesses, restaurants and wedding halls, just as the traditional spring season for weddings was beginning. Even when these restrictions were relaxed in some cases, places of communal gathering such as wedding halls and sporting stadiums remained closed.

The government has also responded with personnel changes in the Ministry of Health, which was deemed necessary for a better response to the new situation. Further measures include the formulation of a national policy against the Covid-19 pandemic, the creation of specialized committees, the creation of a commission for public information, the building of specialized hospitals and testing laboratories, and social initiatives aimed at relieving the poorest echelons of the society from the economic stress imposed on them by the pandemic.



French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe speaking to the French Parliament on April 28th

Credits: LeParisien

France's response to Covid-19

The world events were dominated by the rise and spread of COVID-19 during the months of March and April 2020. France suffered from the outbreak as well, leading to the announcement of strict social distancing and quarantine measures between March 10th and 20th. The measures which started with the closure of all establishments of education (from pre-school to higher education) continued with the closure of all non-essential businesses and jobs, with the obligation on the employers to make the necessary facilitations so that workers may work from home. People have been recommended to stay at home, and all non-essential travel and movement has been banned, except for a small number of activities that were allowed but nevertheless strictly regulated.

The French prime minister Edouard Philippe announced on April 28th, that the strict quarantine measures will continue until at least May 11th.

From that date, if the circumstances end up permitting such measures, the quarantine will be lifted gradually and in a targeted manner.. Pre-school and primary schools will be the first to open and higher echelons of education will reopen gradually, and according to the rates of infection in their corresponding localities. For businesses, working from home is encouraged and limited working hours are recommended in cases where working from home is not possible. Certain sectors such as cafes and restaurants where largescale social interaction would be inevitable will remain closed and restricted, but the rest can open starting from May 11th. Public transport will open under conditions of better social distancing and more limited capacity; and wearing a mask will be obligatory for those who use it.

All of these measures will be applied according to the progression of the disease, nationally and in each locality.

Afghanistan represented in UNESCO's Virtual Meeting of Ministers of Culture

Mrs. Hasina Safi, the acting Minister of Information and Culture of the I.R. of Afghanistan participated in a video-conference attended by the ministers of culture from UNESCO member states about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the cultural sector and access to culture under the restrictions posed by the pandemic.

In this conference, the I.R. Afghanistan's interim Minister of Information and Culture provided information about the plans measures undertaken by the Afghan government as a result of instructions from the office of the President of the Republic, in order to counter the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

These measures include the formulation of a national program for combatting Covid-19, the creation of special committees and working groups at various administrative levels, the application of quarantine, a variety of emergency and extraordinary measures suited to tackle the situation, public information programs, and the digitalization of educational materials in order to ameliorate access to education during the periods of quarantine and social distancing.

This conference was attended by ministers of culture from more than 120 countries, where they provided their suggestions and insights about how to conduct UNESCO programs during the Covid-19 pandemic and in its aftermath.



Acting minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the video conference organized by UNESCO.

PARIS BRIEF



UNESCO Virtual Meeting of Ministers of Culture of on Covid-19

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan's National Strategy for COVID-19

The Afghan government has responded with urgency and flexibility to the Covid-19 crisis. Regular consultation with state and societal actors take place in order to react swiftly to the changes in the fluctuating context, and the government has increasingly delegated more power to vice presidents and to local authorities in order to ensure flexible and swift responses to any new local and national developments.

A number of hospitalization and testing facilities have been built in quick order, and emergency budgets for purchasing medical equipment such as ventilators and testing kits have been approved.

Overall, in the policy domain, the government has responded with the formulation of a National Strategy for Covid-19.

The priorities of the national strategy for Covid-19 include:

- a revised National Health program focused on reforming and expanding national healthcare services and hospitalization facilities
- a National Human Security Program to assist groups under structural risk
- a National Recovery Program to assist groups facing situational risks
- a National Stimulus Program directed to balance social and spatial development
- a National Human Capital Program to enhance technology and access to distance learning
- a revised National Infrastructure Program to ensure access to basic services and meet the needs of the private sector – such as electricity and communications infrastructure- in order to recover economically
- a Diaspora reintegration program in order to resolve the problems of returning refugees from countries like Iran and Pakistan, as well as Afghans stuck abroad
- an Enhanced Regional Connectivity Program to accelerate existing projects and to expand those railways and transmission lines essential to relief and recovery.

The Afghan Government will prioritize these strategies and requests its developmental partner to assist it in redirecting effort and resources towards these national priorities in order to ensure the best and swiftest possible recovery from the adverse effects of the Covid-19 crisis.



**United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization**

ICESCO and its Initiatives to support the Islamic World to overcome the Coronavirus Pandemic

To counter the spread of Coronavirus-COVID-19 and to meet the vital needs that are felt in the daily life of a slowing world, the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) to which, the Embassy of the IR of Afghanistan in France - Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and ICESCO is accredited (since 2003), has not remained idle. Under the aegis of its Director-General, H.E. Dr Salim AlMalik, the Organization has undertaken, within its fields of competence, a series of initiatives to provide solutions to Muslim countries facing the unprecedented repercussions of this pandemic, as well as a Coronavirus Prize which awards a prize for the fight against the coronavirus to anyone who discovers an effective treatment or vaccine against the Coronavirus-COVID-19.



Our country, Afghanistan has not been forgotten, through our Representation, ICESCO has forwarded three offers of financial assistance to Kabul :

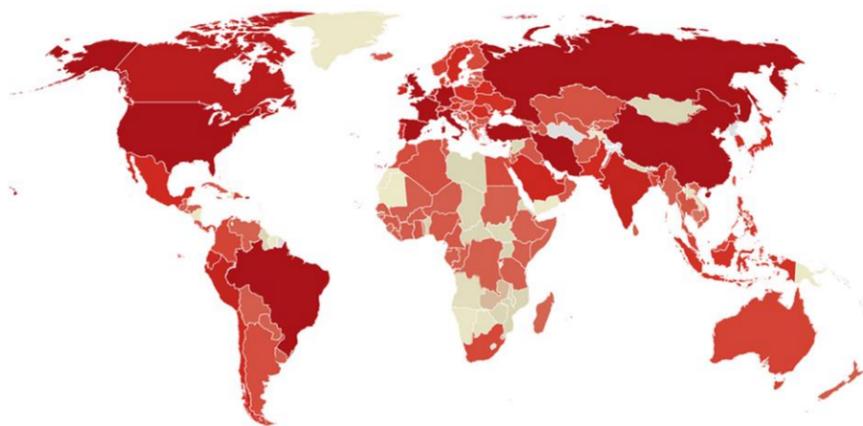
- Support to the Ministry of Health to strengthen the provision of hygiene products and medical kits to the population in the most vulnerable and affected areas to cope with the epidemic.

- Support to the Ministry of Education to acquire audio-visual and computer equipment in order to be able to continue distance learning for students confined to their homes.

- Support to Afghanistan within the framework of the Global Humanitarian Coalition to counter and reduce the current and future impacts of the pandemic on society.

The initiatives of International Organizations such as ICESCO demonstrate that the world is not alone in facing the pandemic, the help, support and assistance they provide are timely and indispensable to counter the pandemic and reflect on the world afterwards.

RED COUNTRIES WITH 100 OR MORE CONFIRMED CASES.
BEIGE COUNTRIES WITH FEWER THAN 100.



SOURCE: WHO, CDC, NHC, AND OTHER SOURCES VIA WORLDOMETER

The global spread of Covid-19.
Credits: Foreign Policy

SUMMARY REPORT

Coronavirus statistics in France and the world.

At the end of the month of April, France has recorded 130 185 cases, with 50 212 recoveries and 24 594 deaths. Globally this figure rises to more than 3.36 million confirmed cases, 1.06 million recoveries, and around 239 000 deaths.

The country with the most cases is the United States of America, with more than 1.13 million cases, 142 000 recoveries, and 65 605 deaths.

تحليل

آیا پایان قرنطینه، پایان بحران است؟ (قسمت اول)

محمد اصغر یاور، سکرتر دوم سفارت ج.ا.ا. در فرانسه

کشف داروی کرونا شده است، کشورهای ثروتمند و صنعتی بودجه های کلانی را برای مبارزه با تبعات اقتصادی و اجتماعی ناشی از این پاندمی، اختصاص داده اند؛ ملیاردها دلار که سرمایه گذاری نه بلکه صرفاً جبران خسارت محسوب میشوند. دولت ها ناچار به پرداخت هزینه ها اند چون چرخ اقتصادی سیاست را درآمدهای مالیاتی و چرخ اقتصاد مالیه دهندگان را بازار میچرخاند؛ عرضه و تقاضا و گردش ارزی.

از صنایع سخت افزاری و نرم افزاری گرفته تا صنعت خدمات، توریسم و صنایع مرتبط با آن و قطع ارتباطات جهانی، همه در حالت ایستا قرار دارند. بسیاری از کارفرمایان، کارکنان خانه نشین را برکنار کرده اند و هنوز سرنوشت کرونا معلوم نشده، ملیون ها انسان بیکار روی دست دولتها مانده اند. از جانب دیگر، خسارت ناشی از چند ماه قرنطینه، برنامه ها و نوع نیاز مصرف کننده را نیز تغییر داده است که این خود چالشی بر راه تولید کننده های است که هنوز نمیدانند، بعد از کرونا چه و چگونه تولید کنند. [...] ادامه دارد.]

بیش بینی شده برای دستیابی به نتیجه قابل قبول، حد اقل اواخر ۲۰۲۰ میلادی یعنی هفت تا هشت ماه دیگر است. از جانب دیگر، هر چند با احتیاط، کشورهای بزرگ صنعتی در پی رفع تدریجی قرنطینه اقداماتی را روی دست میگیرند تا زندگی عادی در رگ های کلان شهر ها جریان پیدا کند و اقتصاد از خواب زمستانی بیدار گردد. اقتصادی که معلوم نیست چرخ اش به کدام مسیر خواهد چرخید.

کرونا بحرانی است آستان بحران های دیگر. بحران اقتصادی، بحران اجتماعی و بحران سیاسی ناشی از کرونا، واقعیت هایی اند که چه باور کنیم چه نه، گوی جهان و جهانی شدن را سخت میفشارند. با توجه به آنچه گفته شد، این نوشتار در پی تبیین تبعات کرونا در عرصه های مختلف زندگی بشری بخصوص عرصه های اجتماعی و اقتصادی است.

اقتصاد پسا کرونا:

در کنار تخصیص ملیاردها دلار برای تطبیق درست قرنطینه، کمک به افسار کم درآمد، ارایه خدمات پزشکی به بیماران کوید ۱۹ و میلیاردها دلاری که صرف تحقیقات علمی برای

خیابان های عاری از وسایط نقلیه، پیاده روی های تهری از عابرین پیاده، کارخانه هایی که روی خطوط تولید شان غبار نشسته است و مراکز تجاری که تا همین ماه قبل، پل میان تولید کننده و مصرف کننده بودند، مملوء از کالاهایی اند که معلوم نیست کی فروخته خواهد شد. نه عرضه ای است و نه تقاضایی مگر برای خوردن و نوشیدن و ابتدایی ترین امکانات درمانی؛ این بلائی است که کرونا بر سر جهان آورده است.

سوال اینجاست که آیا کوید ۱۹ به عنوان بزرگترین دغدغه امروز جهان، صرفاً یک بحران صحتی جهانی است؟ آیا صرفاً با کاهش مرگ و میر و میزان مبتلایان جدید، میتوان به جهان بعد از کرونا، امیدوار بود؟ دوران طاقت فرسای قرنطینه، چنین سوالاتی را در اذهان ما خلق کرده است. اما با این هم، دغدغه اکثریت مردم، رفع قرنطینه است نه روزگار پس از آن. هر چند تلاش های جهانی به منظور تولید پاد زهری که حریف کرونا شود، به شدت جریان دارد، اما خوشبینانه ترین زمان